Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MILAN 00549 051829Z

13
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

/078 W
---------- 016287
R 051050Z MAR 76
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4598

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0549

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PIRELLI ON PRESS AND POLITICAL CLIMATE

REF 75 MILAN 2127, 75 MILAN 1722

1. DURING CALL BY ECON MIN. AND CON GEN, LEOPOLDO PIRELLI, PRESIDENT OF ITALY'S MAJOR RUBBER PRODUCTS PRODUCER, SAID THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN LEFT WING DAILY LA REPUBBLICA OF WHICH HE WAS RUMORED BACKER. IT WAS CERTAINLY ONEOF THE LEAST SERIOUS PUBLICATIONS IN ITALY TODAY. IT WAS NOT THAT ITS DIRECTOR, SCALFARI, WHOM PIRELLI KNOWS WELL, WAS LACKING IN UNDERSTANDING THE SUBJECT MATTER. BUT IT HAD TO BE APPRECIATED THAT LA REPUBBLICA HAD COME INTO EXIS-TENCE TO RESPOND TO A NEED. PREVIOUSLY, THE ITALIAN PRESS HAD BEEN DOMINATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS NO INDEPENDENT CRITICAL VOICE. IF THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA HAD BEEN AS INDEPENDENT A FEW YEARS AGO AS IT WAS NOW, LA REPUBBLICA WOULD PROBABLY NEVER HAD BEEN PUT ON ITS FEET. THE CREATION OF THE AGNELLI BACKED WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE, ESPRESSO, CONFIRMED THIS ANALYSIS. INITIALLY, IT HAD COME INTO BEING AS A VOICE OF CRITICISM OF THE PREDOMINANT DC GOVERNMENT. ITS POINT OF VIEW WAS ONE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MILAN 00549 051829Z

THAT HE SHARED AT ITS INCEPTION. NOW, HOWEVER, IT HAD

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

WANDERED FAR FROM THAT LINE.

2. AS FOR THE POLITICAL SCENE, THE PROBLEMS THAT ITALY FACED WERE POLITICAL MORE THAN THEY WERE ECONOMIC. ALL THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT CONCERNED INDUSTRY - THE OUTLOOK FOR INTEREST RATES, THE ROLE OF THE TRADE UNIONS, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BUREAUCRACY, GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY, THE EXCHANGE RATE - DEPENDED UPON POLITICAL DECISIONS. PIRELLI SAID THAT UNTIL NEW ELECTIONS WERE HELD, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE HOPE OF MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS AND SECURING THE KIND OF STABILITY IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT WAS NEC-ESSARY. NONE OF THE PARTIES WOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO ALY DOWN THE PROGRAM OF REAL SACRIFICE THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PULL THINGS TOGETHER AGAIN. BUT AFTER THE ELECTIONS, THERE WAS SOME HOPE THAT THE PARTIES MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO SO. CONSEQUENTLY, HE LEANED TOWARD EARLY ELECTIONS TO TRY TO RESTORE SOME KIND OF EFFECTIVE AND DURABLE GOVERNMENT IN ROME. HE DOUBTED THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD BE ABLE TO CLEAN HOUSE AND REJUVENATE THEIR PARTY EVEN IF GIVEN UNTIL 1977 TO DO SO.

3. DID HE FAVOR ASSOCIATING THE COMMUNISTS WITH A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT? PIRELLI SAID THAT HE PROFOUNDLY DISTRUSTED THE COMMUNISTS AND THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A MISTAKE. HE WAS OPPOSED TO TRYING TO INSTALL A REGIME AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL LIKE THAT WHICH WAS BEING TRIED IN LOMBARDY.FINA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL STABILITY, THE PRESS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MILAN00549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0906
From: MILAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760391/aaaadbyp.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MILAN 2127, 76 MILAN 1722
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PIRELLI ON PRESS AND POLITICAL CLIMATE
TAGS: PINT, IT, (PIRELLI, LEOPOLDO)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006